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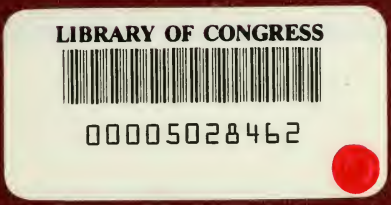

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

National Constitution and By-Laws

Dames of 1846

C. N.

Mrs. Moore Murdock

9 Mr'03

Dames of 1846

MRS. MOORE MURDOCK

Founder and Organizer

A Patriotic and Benevolent Organization in honor of the Soldiers of the WAR with MEXICO. Founded in the City of Fort Worth, State of Texas, June the 5th, 1901, by the unanimous consent of the Texas Division of the MEXICAN WAR VETERAN ASSOCIATION.

Preamble and Memorial.

To the Texas Division of the Veterans of the Mexican War —Greeting:

Feeling the deepest veneration and patriotism for every notable epoch of American history, we do not place that of the Mexican War amongst the least, in its importance and results As the mothers, wives and daughters of the warriors of 1846, we believe that the time is over-ripe for us to commemorate the bravery and devotion of those men who repelled the invader and made the proud boast of the conquerors of San Jacinto a declaration to posterity that the broad empire of Texas was founded upon a stable basis.

The notable men and women of our early colonies have had their fortitude and heroism immortalized by the women who trace their ancestry to gallant bands of pioneers in a New World. The sublime thunders of the Declaration of Independence find to-day an echo in the song of an army of women greater in numbers than the thin legions that their indomitable ancestors opposed to an implacable and remorseless tyranny.

But the most sacred record to the Southern heart, is that greatest one when neighbors having found argument vain, the seried ranks of Northern and Southern giants faced each other upon the bloodiest field that ever marked the conflicts of a world. As the "Daughters of the Confederacy," the women of the South are correcting history, moulding opinions, demanding justice, educating youth, and rearing monuments to the men who lived and died for a cause that is invincible.

Last, but not least, the grand old Republic of Texas has its company of illustrious women who perpetuate the memories of the massacre of Alamo. Goliad and the victory of San Jacinto. How many of our Texas women, members of the "Daughters of the Republic" and "Daughters of the Confederacy" ever refer to the precarious place in history that the cause around which centers their devotion would have occupied if the veterans of 1846 had not marched upon the encroaching Mexican foe. Suppose a feeble arm, a half-hearted resistance had opposed the invader,—what had been the fate of Texas, New Mexico and California? To the War

with Mexico we owe our supreme liberation from all present and future fears of our neighbors across the Rio Grande. That the grand survivors of that most conclusive trial of strength and endurance are passing rapidly to the sweet fields of perpetual peace, "unhonored and unsung" by their matrons and maids, is a fact that impresses itself upon our hearts. Year after year we see the depleted ranks of the Mexican War Association file into our hospitable cities to receive our plaudits and heart-felt welcomes, many, alas, for the last time. Ah! women of 1846, we have waited too long to crown the victors of that war,

In this we memoralize the remnant of that noble army that comprised the flower of our land, of our Southland especially, to permit us under their venerable hand and seal to publicly declare ourselves their heirs and successors.

We appeal to them out of the generosity of their great hearts to give us assurance of their forgiveness of our remissness in the past by permitting us to band ourselves together under the title of "Dames of 1846, to glorify their heroic deeds, to crown with honor their remaining days, to perpetuate their fame to posterity in monuments to the dead and devotion to their descendants.

MRS. MOORE MURDOCK
MRS ELLA MOORE KIRTLEY
MRS D MURDOCK LEWIS
MISS BUFORD KIRTLEY
MISS MARGUERITE KIRTLEY

President Finlay and Abe Harris made appropriate remarks on the proposed work of Mrs. Murdock, and paid her the compliment of being the first woman in Texas to undertake such a movement. The widows, children and all descendants of the Mexican war veterans will be eligible to membership. Mrs. Murdock stated that she would begin the work of organization at once. She was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Mexican War Veterans' Association.

Officers of the Texas Division of the

MEXICAN WAR VETERANS ASS'N.

Who Endorsed the Organization of the

Dames of 1846

Commandant

COL. GEORGE P. FINLAY, Galveston, Texas

Vice-Commandant

COL. WM. E. ESTES, Texarkana, Texas

Secretary

CAPT. A. J. NAVE, Columbus, Texas

Treasurer

MR. A. C. HEREFORD, Moulton, Texas

Surgeon

DR. J. A. ANTHONY, Terrell, Texas

Committee

from MEXICAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, Division of Texas, *to investigate and approve the object and organization of the*

DAMES OF 1846

COL. ABE HARRIS, Fort Worth, Texas, *Chm.*
DR. A. J. ANTHONY, Terrell, Texas
LEVI C. BISHOP, Fort Worth, Texas

Officers of the National Association of *Mexican War Veterans.*

President—J. C. CARLTON, Bedford Indiana.
Secretary—MRS. MOORE MURDOCK,
Fort Worth, Texas.
Treasurer—LEROY WILEY, Paris, Illinois.

Vice-Presidents

S. P. TUFTS, Centralia, Ill.
H. T. OGDEN, Cincinnati, Ohio.
W. S. MCCHESNEY, Lexington, Ky.
LEROY WILEY, Paris, Ill.
C. F. SARGENT, Bellwood, Pa.
WM. M. STEWART, Gallatin, Tenn.
GEO. T. BARNEY, Elkhart, Ind.
S. E. CHAMBERLAIN, Barre, Mass.
S. J. F. RUTER, Los Angeles, Cal.
WM. BOONE MAJORS, Odessa, Mo.

Honorary National Commandants

Dames of 1846

Mesdames Jefferson Davis, Mississippi
Ulyssus S. Grant, Washington, D. C.
Phil. Kearney, Washington, D. C.
John A. Logan, Washington, D. C.
Letitia Tyler Semple, Washington, D. C.
James Longstreet, Washington, D. C.
Wm. B. Bate, Washington, D. C.
John C. Freemont, California
Albert Sidney Johnston, California
Clarence Mackey, California
John A. Wood, Kansas
A. E. Campbell, Kansas
Daniel H. Hill, North Carolina
Stonewall Jackson, North Carolina
Wm. H. Polk, North Carolina
Katherine E. Cobb, North Carolina
Orren Randolph Smith, North Carolina
Elizabeth E. Partin, North Carolina
Braxton Bragg, Louisiana
J. D. Kirkland, Louisiana
Bettie Taylor Dandrige, Virginia
Geo. C. McClelland, Pennsylvania
Kate Arnold Parker, Mississippi
Rosalie Quitman Duncan, Mississippi
Antonia Quitman Lovell, Mississippi
Lamar Fontain, Mississippi

Mesdames Isabel A. Hobgood, Missouri
Minerva Peacock, Missouri
Aurelia D. McCarty, Oklahoma
Nancy Ross Ogden, Ohio
S. C. Lavalette, Pennsylvania
Mary A. Nixon George, Pennsylvania
Francis J. Keffer, Pennsylvania
John C. F. Sargent, Pennsylvania
W. C. Haines, Pennsylvania
W. S. McChesney, Kentucky
John H. McBrayer, Kentucky
Wm. F. Bond, Kentucky
Mary Rogers Clay, Kentucky
Admiral Semmes, Kentucky
Calvin B. Fowlkes, Tennessee
H. C. Seesell, Tennessee
Louis J. Beeler, Maryland
Leroy Wiley, Illinois
S. P. Tufts, Illinois
J. Freeter, Illinois
James F. Harney, Indiana
Henry H. Lane, Indiana
Lew Wallace, Indiana
James B. Mulkey, Indiana
J. M. Parkhurst, Indiana
Sarah Ferry Purcell, Indiana
Louise Haygood Pettitt, Indiana
Jennie A. Callahan, Indiana
William W. Lowe, Indiana
Sophronia Monroe Landers, Indiana

Countess Telfener, Germany
Princess Colona, Italy
Madame Emile Assenmarcher, Belgium

Texas

Geo. P. Finlay	James Buckner Barry
Clementina Millett	Edmund J. Davis
Frank R. Lubbock	B. F. Draper
William Bohls	Matilda Baggett
Nancy Nave	Margaret A. Freeman
S. Elizabeth Wills	J. Lynch
Epsey Moore Millette	J. T. Phillips
Mary E. Boyd	Ida Cook
Mary B. White	A. P. McCune
E. A. Kirk	Louisa V. Clough
Emily D. Dashiel	W. W. Dunn
Dudley Portwood	Dollie A. Smith
Elizabeth E. Reinhard	J. C. Anglin
Elizabeth Hahn	Minna Krause
Anna Lezendecker	John Hasted
Lena Perry	Bettie Griffin
Sallie Lott	Cary N. Styles
Alice E. Bishop	Mary H. Latimer
Sophronia Beverly	Mary Fauntleroy
Ben Willis	Mary E. Earp
V. R. Burnam	Nicholas Ferguson
William E. Estes	E. C. Russell
Cary A. Forbes	C. H. Rucker
Maria L. Hopkins	Mary Saunders
Grace M. Griffith	Eliza Young
J. B. Harris	Mary Ann Harper
E. L. Estes	Eliza Young
Susanna O. Rankin	Mary E. Fleming

Mary Stephenson Kirksey Nichols
Missouri Francis Morton

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

NAME AND MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 2. The name of this organization shall be the DAMES OF 1846.

SEC. 2 All persons duly qualified, who have been admitted by the National Board of Management, shall be members of the National organization, but, for the purposes and convenience, they may be organized into local Camps, as hereinafter provided.

ARTICLE II.

OBJECTS OF THE ORGANIZATION.

To perpetuate the memory, the sacrifices and the indomitable courage and valor of the men who, without regard to section, politics or social condition, responded to the call to arms in 1846, and by the most brilliant achievements of modern warfare in two years swept the foe from our southern borders, establishing an everlasting boundary line between the United States and

Mexico, and gave to the commonwealth a greater extent of territory than was ever before acquired by force of arms. To procure the right to protect and make National property historical spots christened by that war within the limits of the United States. To erect monuments to the gallant dead: homes for their widows and orphans, and libraries—which by their dedication and contents shall educate American youth upon this hitherto neglected epoch of American history.

ARTICLE III.

ELIGIBILITY.

SECTION 1. Any woman may be eligible for active membership who is of the age of eighteen years, and who is a lineal descendant of an authenticated soldier of the Mexican war. Mothers, wives and widows of such soldiers shall be eligible to Charter membership, and exempt from dues and obligatory attendance at business meetings of the Camps; such women to be reverenced by us and denominated as the MOTHERS of the DAMES OF 1846.

SEC. 2. Every applicant for membership must be endorsed by one or more members of the National Camp, or the Local Camp when established, the application to be filed in a prescribed form, and copies sent to the

National Registrar and spread upon the local records of the Camp.

SEC. 3. Any woman a collateral descendant of an officer of historical renown, for gallantry or bravery in the Mexican war, shall be eligible to this organization. Only the heroes whose exploits have been deemed worthy of the pages of National history, can confer this high privilege on their female relatives.

SEC. 4. All persons whose applications are approved on or before the 1st of October, 1991, shall be Charter members of the National Encampment.

ARTICLE IV.

OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. Each Camp shall have the following officers: Commandant, three Vice-Commandants, one Recording Secretary, one Corresponding Secretary, one Treasurer, one Registrar, one Historian, one Sergeant-at-Arms. These officers shall be elected by ballot by a vote of the majority of the members present, at each annual meeting.

(Amended June 2, 1903.)

ARTICLE V.

NAMES AND ORDER OF SUCCESSION OF CAMPS.

Commencing with "Palo Alto," the Charter Camp of the United States each new Camp

as organized must take the name of the battle next fought—and so on, in direct succession. Each Camp must choose as sponsor a Mexican soldier, dead or alive—and observe his birthday as a memorial day of the Camp, second only in importance to the anniversary of the battle they commemorate. Palo Alto has chosen Gen. Zachary Taylor its immortal sponsor, his birthday and the 8th of May to be National memorial days, all Camps observing them in connection with their local anniversaries.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

NATIONAL ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

SECTION 1. The National Encampment shall be held where the vote of the Encampment shall elect, and upon such day or days as shall be determined upon by a two-thirds majority of the delegates present. At this National Encampment the Report of the Board of Management shall be considered.

(Amended June 2, 1902')

SEC. 2. All the officers of the National Encampment shall be elected by ballot, and such business transacted as the good of the organization may require.

SEC. 3. All honorary and ex-officers of the National Encampment may attend all meetings of the same and participate in its deliberations, but are not entitled to a vote.

ARTICLE II.

NATIONAL BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

SECTION 1. The National Board of Management shall be composed of the active officers of the National Encampment, the State Commandants and such other delegates as may be deemed a local necessity.

SEC. 2. The Board of Management shall have full power to manage the business of the Organization, to enact By-Laws, prescribe rules and regulations for the guidance of the officers of the Organization, and approve all applications for membership.

SEC. 3. The National Commandant shall have full power to approve or reject the rulings of the Board in her absence, to fill vacancies in offices until the next regular election, and to do all things for the general good of the Organization. Final appeals may be made to her, collectively or individually, and her decision shall be legal and binding.

ARTICLE III.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

At all business meetings, National, State or local, the following order of business shall be observed; 1. Invocation by the Commandant. 2. Reading of minutes of

previous meeting and their approval. 4. Report of Select Committees. 5. Unfinished business. 6. New business. 7. Miscellaneous business. 8. Benediction and adjournment.

ARTICLE IV.

DISCIPLINE.

Any member conducting herself, either at the meetings of the Camp or elsewhere, in a way calculated to disturb the harmony of the organization, or to impair its good name or prosperity, or to injure the reputation of any member thereof, may, upon thorough investigation, be reprimanded, suspended or expelled—as the National Board of Management shall decide.

ARTICLE V.

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING.

It should be the endeavor of each Camp to own and control its headquarters. That being definitely settled, due prominence should be given through the public press as to its locality; and such care and adornment of the premises should be exercised that at all times the headquarters should be in an orderly and inviting condition. "Palo Alto" has chosen the first Wednesday of the month as the day and hour of meeting. This is the

business meeting, and unless urgent business comes up before the Camp, no other meetings during the month can be called for business. Upon the day selected, all business accumulated since the previous meeting must be transacted, unfinished business from the previous meeting taking precedure.

No meeting for business purposes can be called except by the Commandant; should she be absent, the next highest officer can conduct the meeting—but the Commandant alone has power to set an irregular day for business meetings, or to call the next regular meeting. When the Commandant is absent from a business meeting, the Recording Secretary must give her due notice of the business transacted, and the minutes held in abeyance until approved by the Commandant. The Commandant should call her meetings through the Press, at least twice before each monthly meeting.

ARTICLE VI.

NATIONAL COMMANDANT.

SECTION 1. The National Commandant, in addition to her general duties, shall be ex-officio chairman of the National Board of Management and of the Executive committee, and a member of every other committee.

SEC. 2. At each annual meeting she shall appoint the following standing committee: Finance committee, Auditing committee, Printing committee, Mexican War Relics committee. The duties of these committees shall be such as usually pertain to committees of like character, and such as may be defined by the Board of Management.

ARTICLE VII.

VICE NATIONAL COMMANDANTS, AND ALL OTHER OFFICERS, STATE AND NATIONAL.

SECTION 1. In the absence of the National Commandant from any session of the National Encampment, or from a meeting of the National Board of Management, one of the Vice-Commandants shall be elected to preside.

SEC. 2. In the prolonged absence or inability of the National Commandant to act, the executive authority shall be vested in the Vice National Commandant, who may be selected by the Board of Management for that purpose.

SEC. 3. The National Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the National Encampment, the Board of Management and the Executive committee; have charge of the seal; give due notice of all meetings of the National Encampment

and other important meetings; give due notice to all general officers of Camps of all votes, orders and proceedings affecting or appertaining to their duties, and generally perform such acts as pertain to her office.

SEC. 4. The Corresponding Secretary shall attend to all correspondence of the Organization and Board of Management; distribute all pamphlets, circulars, rosettes, supplies and directions, as decided by the National Board of Management.

SEC. 5. The National Treasurer shall collect and receive the funds of the National Organization. She shall deposit the same in some bank selected for the purpose, to the credit of the DAMES OF 1846, and shall draw from thence for all uses as directed by the Executive Board upon the order of the National Commandant, countersigned by the National Recording Secretary. Her accounts shall be audited by a committee appointed at the annual Encampment. She shall, if so required by the Board of Management or the Executive committee, give bond for the safe custody of the funds.

SEC. 6. The National Registrar shall keep a register of the names and date of elections, resignation or death of all members of Camps; and shall have the care and custody of all applications for membership, dupli-

cates of which, properly approved by the National officers, shall be retained by the Registrars of Camps. The National Registrar shall examine all applications for membership and approve the same if correct; if not, she shall return same for correction, pointing out the defects. She shall report all applications to the National Board of Management for final action.

SEC. 7. The National Historian shall have the custody of all historical and biographical collections of which the National Organization may become possessed, and shall place the same in a fire-proof repository. She shall prepare for official publication historical and biographical sketches of the Mexican War, ancestors of members, and of distinguished women connected with that war.

SEC. 8. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall keep the key of the Camp assembly rooms, admit eligible members and invited guests, seat the same in designated places of honor, preserve order, distribute literature, remain until the room is vacated, collect and deposit in places of safety articles of value left in the room, and be generally responsible for the care and custody of Camp property not otherwise provided for. She shall have power, in time of large assemblies, to select

and appoint such assistance as she may deem necessary to insure the order and dignity of the organization.

SEC. 9. All the above rules and obligations pertain in relative manner to each and every officer of the State or local Camps, such amendments or restrictions as may be voted necessary for local environments.

ARTICLE VIII.

INITIATION, DUES AND LIABILITIES.

SECTION 1. The initiation fee of the National Encampment is (50) cents, to be paid on or before the 8th day of May, following charter.

SEC. 2. The local annual dues are fifty (50) cents, and (10) cents additional to the National Treasury, and (10) cents additional to the State Treasury.

ARTICLE IX.

AMENDMENTS.

Amendments to this Constitution and By-Laws may be offered at any meeting of the Board of Management, but shall not be acted upon until the next meeting thereof. If approved by amajority of the Board, a copy thereof shall be sent the Commandant and Secretary of every Camp, and to each

State Commandant, at least thirty days prior to the meetings of the National Encampments. Adopted by a majority of the Encampment, such amendments shall be in full force thereafter.

ARTICLE X.

CHARTERS.

SECTION 1. When eight eligible women shall be living in one locality, they may, after formal authorization by the National Commandant or Board of Managers, organize a Camp. They may elect a presiding officer whose title will be Commandant, and who by virtue of her office shall be a delegate to the State and National Encampments.

SEC. 2. After the Camp has been established, all applications for memberships must be passed upon by the Local Board, and upon the approval of the Board, the application shall receive the endorsement of the Commandant, the Recording Secretary and Registrar, and be forwarded to the National Board of Management for final action.

SEC. 3. The Local Camp may enact By-Laws, for their own government, in harmony with the National Constitution.

ARTICLE XI.

TERMS OF LOCAL MEMBERSHIP.

Any woman having proven her eligibility for membership, and having been accepted

and enrolled upon the roster of a local Camp shall forever after be a member of that Camp; should she remove to another locality, she may upon application to the National Board of Management, obtain a transfer permitting her to affiliate with the business and social life of the nearest Camp in her vicinity; but her vote upon State or National matters, if entitled to one, must be cast with her charter Camp; annual, State, and National dues must be paid into the treasury of her charter Camp—her loyalty, devotion and support given to it for life, and her memorial services conducted under the auspices of the same. She is not barred from giving her enthusiastic services and encouragement, and any and all gifts, pecuniary or otherwise to the Camp of her adoption, but her obligations to the Camp that enrolled her shall end only in her death.

ARTICLE XII.

CAMPS.

(1) Notify the National Corresponding Secretary of the election and appointment of all officers and delegates.

(2) Pay to the National Treasurer, on or before the 8th day of May, the sum of ten cents for each active member thereof, for National dues.

(3) Pay to the State Treasurer, the sum of ten cents on or before the 8th day of May for State dues.

(4) Transmit to the National Registrar all approved applications for membership for final action of the Board, and notify her of the resignation or death of any member thereof.

(5) Each Camp shall elect its officers and local Board of Management at the time of the year that falls upon the anniversary of the battle for which the Camp is named, but the delegates must be elected ten days before the 8th day of May.

(6) Each Camp shall be entitled, upon payment of the cost thereof, to a certificate or charter duly certifying its name, location, date, officers, and organizing members, which shall be signed by the National Commandant and National Recording Secretary, attested by the seal of the National Organization, and countersigned by the State Commandant.

(7) Camps must be named for battles fought during the Mexican War, being particular to observe the order of succession of said battles. Furthermore, each Camp must choose as sponser a soldier of the Mexican War, dead or alive, whose birthday must be observed with all honor and decorum.

ARTICLE XIII.

SEAL.

The seal of the Organization shall be a disk, one and seven-eighths of an inch in diameter, charged with the figure of a Mexican soldier discharging a cannon, the wreath surrounded by the legend, "Palo Alto, May 8, 1846," and the motto, "For Americans."

ARTICLE XIV.

INSIGNIA.

The insignia shall consist of a badge in the form of a shield, made of bronze; a perfect duplicate of those worn by Mexican War Veterans. Each member of the Organization shall be entitled to a certificate of membership duly attested by the National Commandant, National Recording Secretary, National Registrar, and the seal of the National Organization.

ARTICLE XV.

STATIONERY.

The stationery shall be pure white, with the American and Mexican flags commingled on the National stationery, and for State and local, the flag shall be combined with the American and Mexican. The insignia

shall be placed in the center at the top of the sheet upon the paper, and in the same position upon the envelope.

ARTICLE XVI.

GUESTS.

Every veteran of the Mexican War shall be at all times a welcome visitor to either the local Camps or National Encampments. The wives and daughters of sons of Mexican veterans not eligible to membership, may be included in all social events of the Organization.

ARTICLE XVII.

AMENDMENTS.

These By-Laws may be altered or amended by a vote of three-fourths of the members present at each meeting of the National Board of Management, written notice thereof having been given at the previous meeting.

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